



## Hoops champs named

See Page 14



## Dog bite

See Page 20

## Index

Viewpoint • Page 5  
MWR news • Page 9  
Chaplain • Page 11  
Community Events • Page 13  
Sports and Leisure • Page 14

# The Signal



Friday, March 18, 2005

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

Vol. 25, No. 11

## News

### UPDATE

#### Correction on CG's departure

The Public Affairs Office wishes to clarify and correct erroneous information that was published in the March 11 edition of *The Signal*.

The article entitled 'CG leaves soon,' incorrectly stated that Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks would be joining Augusta Preparatory Day School as head of its Upper School on July 1.

Hicks will actually be joining the school's faculty following a change of command ceremony tentatively scheduled for mid- to late-July.

The PAO sincerely apologizes for this error.

#### Living Last Supper

A living portrayal of the Last Supper, produced by the Protestant Women of the Chapel, is 7 p.m. **Wednesday and Thursday** at Bicentennial Chapel. Admission is free. For details, call 791-3959.

#### Red Cross dance

The American Red Cross presents "A Musical Journey Through Time" canteen dance from 6-10 p.m. **Saturday** at the Reserve Center.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available at the Red Cross office and include door prizes, food and beverages, and dancing. Proceeds will go to the American Red Cross Volunteer Program. For details call 787-6311.

#### Off limits list

Effective Aug. 3, 2004, the Fort Gordon Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board imposed off-limits sanction against Knights Inn, 210 Boy Scout Rd., for illegal drug trafficking and use occurring on the property.

In accordance with AR 190-24, military personnel are prohibited from entering this establishment as long as this order is in force.

This restriction will remain in effect for an indefinite period. Violations by military personnel of this order may result in disciplinary action under UCMJ. For information, call 791-2572.

#### DSOY award

The Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year award ceremony is 10 a.m. **today** in Alexander Hall. For information, call Sgt. 1st Class James Young at 791-9095.

#### Yard sale

The Great American Yard Sale will be held from 8 a.m. to noon **Saturday** in the four housing areas on post. For information, call 791-9536.



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

## Afghan visit

Members of a delegation of Afghanistan officers, escorted by Lt. Col. Wade Sokolosky, 73rd Ordnance Battalion commander, take a look at computer components and are briefed by David Brasch, contracted computer instructor (far right), on computer components and repairs, at Stansell Hall Friday. (From left to right) Brig. Gen. Mehrab Ali, chief of Afghanistan National Army, G-6, the delegations' translator, Col. Mohamad Karim Abdullah, chief of plans and operations section, G-6, and Col. Abdula Rahim Said Farooq, chief of maintenance and repair, G-6. The briefings were held to give the delegation a glimpse of what Soldiers taking the 35F (special electronic devices repairer) course do, how they train, troubleshoot and repair.

# Deputy commander reflects on war game

Spc. Armando Monroig  
*Signal staff*

Following the successful LandWarNet2 games, many who took part in organizing the massive event took the message on the road to Army leadership.

Fort Gordon held the war games Jan. 31 to Feb 4 at the Reserve Center to test and develop the Army's portion of the Global Information Grid, or GIG.

About 300 people – contractors, civilians and military – attended, with 15 general officers participating representing various Army branches such as Engineers, Infantry, Armor, Intelligence, Aviation, Air Defense Artillery, and Combat Service Support.

A key player in orchestrating the LWN2 games was Col. Jeffrey Smith, U.S. Army Signal Center and post deputy commander, who took the findings from the games to other commands.

"This was the first time we had ever laid out a time frame (2008), of all the units that may find themselves on the forward edge of the battle space, in a real scenario," said Smith.

He said all proponents were represented on the battle space (map) used during the games, in a joint environment, adding that "the games became a useful means of everyone visualizing the complexity of that battle space," he said.

"One of the conclusions we drew from the fight was that if you are not joint at the core in at least four areas, this is a very difficult network-enabled battle," said Smith.

Those areas are sharing a common joint doctrine allowing operational interoperability, using the network in a similar manner, having common organizations, and common nomenclature.

See LWN, page 6



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and post commanding general, thanks Marlene Thompson, a photographer with the Training Support Center, for her help in the LandWarNet 2 war game. Hicks thanked and awarded about 65 people, military and civilian, for their part in making the LWN2 game a success during an awards ceremony held at Alexander Hall March 9.

## EAMC phone service

Jennifer Chipman  
*Eisenhower Army Medical Center*

A disruption in phone service may affect Eisenhower Army Medical Center employees Thursday.

At about 6 p.m. Thursday, EAMC will experience a short period of time where phone service in and out of the medical center will be disrupted. According to Maj. Robert Curee, chief of Information Management, a new switch will be installed that could cause a 15 to 30 minute disruption in service throughout the building. There will be no disruption to 911 service.

"Additional personnel will be stationed throughout the medical center with radios and cell phones to provide whatever assistance is needed to the staff and to the patients during this time period," Curee said, adding

that people will be on hand to act as "runners" to pick up and deliver medications and to pick up and deliver any lab results.

"We have planned this so carefully, that our patients should not even realize this is going on," he said.

Curee went on to say that the new switch will enhance phone service at Eisenhower. It will provide a new voice mail system and expand the automated call distribution capabilities in several areas of the medical center including the information desk, the Health Benefits Advisors Section and the Information Technology Help Desk.

This will reduce the number of busy signals people calling into the medical center will get.

For more information about the short disruption of service, call Robert Prior at 787-5178.

## Study examines development

Charmain Z. Brackett  
*Contributing writer*

A joint land-use study focusing on the impact of development around Fort Gordon should be completed by the end of April.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the use of training areas by active duty, Army Reserve components and National Guard units has drastically increased. Side effects of that include increased noise.

As that has increased, so has growth and development on the boundaries of the post.

Construction of roads such as the Fall Line Freeway and Jimmy Dyess Parkway and improvements to Gordon Highway have taken place over the

past few years.

"New roads mean they are going to have growth," said Pat Buchholz, the installation's strategic management officer. "We are making sure we don't impact our neighbors, and our neighbors don't impact us."

The land-use study "is the ideal thing to do," she said.

Plans for the study were initiated years ago; however, events such as the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the development of the Installation Management Agency pushed them to the background.

Efforts were renewed and the first meeting was held about a year ago, said Buchholz.

Officials with the Department of Defense were "surprised so much happened at

that meeting," said Buchholz.

Fort Gordon has about 56,000 acres and borders four counties in Georgia including Richmond, Jefferson, Columbia and McDuffie. Input has been sought from the municipalities in those counties.

Buchholz said that when completed the study won't just be a document that sits around collecting dust.

"It will develop into a plan to take action on. It will be a living document," she said.

It will be used to develop policies and zoning guidelines to ensure that Fort Gordon can continue to do its mission without detrimental impact on the community outside the gates.



# At ease

## Off-duty IET Soldiers can relax at rec center

**Spc. Armando Monroig**  
*Signal staff*

Life for trainees may seem a difficult road for Initial Entry Training Soldiers on any post.

With drill sergeants constantly barking orders, having to make formations, GI parties

and everything else that comes with a trainees' life, it is safe to say IET Soldiers need an escape from time to time.

Many may not know but there are ways for the trainees to escape, at least temporarily, from the daily routine.

Certain programs on post are specifically for IET Soldiers

said Steve Walpert, Fort Gordon entertainment director.

"We have lots of programs available depending on what their command permits them to do and what phase they are in," said Walpert.

Among those are concerts, plays and talent shows, to name a few. But the primary

program offered specifically to IET Soldiers is the IET Recreation Center, said Walpert.

It is located across from Signal Towers on B Street. Coin-operated arcade games, a brand-new NASCAR simulator, TVs with cable, DVDs available for sign-out, pool tables, board games, a 25-computer Internet-café, and a snack bar are all available to them at the center.

"It's like their own private club," said Walpert. "It's there for them. It gives them a chance to have some leisure time."

In addition, IET Soldiers' family members can go there.

Walpert said many IET Soldiers are just not aware of what is available to them.

"There's a lot we offer them," said Walpert, as he proceeded to list some other activities: the Riding Stables, the gyms and the shooting club.

He reiterated though, that many of these activities are subject to availability due to an IET Soldiers' phase.

"Many trainees with an interest in theater, come down to the dinner theater and work on a set, help build or paint," said Walpert of another activity they can get involved in.

Walpert said they are always looking for feedback on what they can do to improve entertainment for Soldiers on post, adding that some ideas of the activities available today came from Soldiers.

"It lets us know if we are on the right track," he said.

Walpert said these programs help improve Soldiers' quality of life. He encourages Soldiers to take advantage of them.

"When a Soldier has a better quality of life it improves their morale, and when they have high morale they are better Soldiers," he said.



Photos by Spc. Armando Monroig

**Pvt. Zhane Johnson, Company B, 551st Signal Battalion, drives a NASCAR simulator with a battle buddy at the IET Soldier Recreation Center Saturday afternoon. Johnson said he enjoyed the ride, adding that it was very realistic and that the game has really good graphics.**



Photo by James Hudgins

### Off to the races

**Jim Green, Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation director, races a go-cart during a test run of the new go-cart course at the Courtyard Friday. The course is slated to open in early April with a grand opening in mid-April. There are 12 carts available; cost is \$5 for 10 minutes with family and group rates available. The course will be seasonal with planned hours of operation Fridays 4-9 p.m., Saturdays noon-8:30 p.m., and Sundays noon-6 p.m.**



# Recognizing civilian employees

**Sgt. Sam Smith**  
*Contributing writer*

With the Army converting into a modular force, civilians are filling more positions that service members once held.

This conversion is directly affecting Fort Gordon, especially in the Garrison units. According to Ted Sharpe, the director of human resources at Fort Gordon, the conversion has advantages.

“Civilians are the continuity here at Fort Gordon, and even more so with our military to civilian conversion of positions,” Sharpe said. “They will play an active role in that conversion.”

Luckily for the growing civilian work force, they have plenty of incentives for them to do a good job.

Several awards are available for civilians who exceed the standards at their positions. A civilian can receive an on the spot bonus of up to \$500 for doing a good job. In the Fort Gordon Installation Management Agency alone, from Oct. 31, 2003, to Feb. 20, 10 on the spot cash awards were given for a combined amount of \$2,400.

Or, for an exceptionally special act or an excellent annual performance, they can receive a bonus equal to as much as 10 percent of their pay. According to Sharpe, these awards are very rare and the most he’s seen at Fort Gordon is about 7 percent, and the average bonus of this kind is about 4 or 5 percent.

Also, a special performance or act can qualify the civilian for a Quality Step Increase, which is basically a promotion

to the next pay grade step. Sharpe says these bonuses are handed out with care since they have a more permanent effect on the budget than an on the spot award. In Fort Gordon’s IMA, two civilian employees received this award since October 2003.

In addition to money, civilians can receive other awards for their hard work. Coins, medals, and time off are common awards given to deserving civilians. And of course, Fort Gordon gives a quarterly

and annual award to exceptional civilian employees. These awards combine both monetary and non-monetary prizes for the deserving winners.

The installation chooses these winners based on the supervisors’ recommendations. The supervisor submits their nominations in a narrative form to a board of directors to review. According to Sharpe, it’s important for supervisors to submit nominations for morale purposes.

“I think everyone wants to do

a good job, but when a civilian does something particularly noteworthy...and their supervisor submits them for such an award,” Sharpe said, “it does provide a feeling of worthiness to that employee that the supervisor cares enough to submit their name for such an award, whether they receive civilian of the quarter or not it is appreciated by that employee.”

For more information on civilian recognition contact Mary Reid at the Directorate of Human Resources at 791-3840.

## Band leader

**The U.S. Army Signal Corps Band held a change of command ceremony at the Gordon Club Friday. Chief Warrant Officer 2 W. Scott MacDonald relinquished command to Warrant Officer Jonathan Ward (pictured). MacDonald is going to the 1st Infantry Division Band in Bamberg, Germany, while Fort Gordon is Ward's first assignment as commander and bandmaster.**



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

# Stand-To marks 100 issues

**Gary Sheftick**  
*Army News Service*

**WASHINGTON** – A new communications tool for Army leaders marked its 100th edition today as “Stand-To” editors introduced a new online version of the daily information sheet.

Stand-To can now be found both on the Web and through subscription by e-mailing **stand-to@hqda.army.mil**.

Since Oct. 7, the Stand-To newsletter has been e-mailed to Army leaders on a subscription basis and also posted to Army Knowledge Online. Back issues of Stand-To can be found at AKO on both the Senior Army Leaders Page and Strategic Communications Page.

“We’ve gone from e-mail push of a word document to an HTML document,” said Lt. Col. James Cassella, director of Army Web communications. “It’s just an enhancement to what has been a real popular tool.”

About 4,500 subscribers so far receive the newsletter daily, Cassella said, with about 50 more each day asking to be added to the subscription.

Cassella said he does not want to publicize the address to the newsletter’s Web site, because he wants those interested to subscribe. Most generals and Army senior executives already subscribe, he said.

“Not a day goes by when a general officer doesn’t come up on the net and express appreciation for what they see as a valuable tool to keep commanders informed,” Cassella said.

Stand-To focuses on a daily issue or hot topic in its left-hand column and also provides links to internal and commercial news stories about the Army and the Global War on Terror.

“I also scope out CENTCOM, TRADOC and other commands for news,” said Devon Hylander, communications analyst and editor of Stand-To. She links to the best internal command information articles of the day as well as a wide range of newspapers.

Information contained in Stand-To is unclassified and cleared for release, Cassella said. Sources include publicly available, authoritative Army documents as well as input from the Army staff and major commands.

# Best of best compete at 93rd Signal Brigade board

**Spc. Brandon Aird**  
*93rd Signal Brigade*

Four times a year, the best of the best in the 93rd Signal Brigade get together for a competition – the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter Board.

Their knowledge, appearance, discipline, military bearing and physical fitness are just a few of the things being tested.

The board is just a stepping stone for most Soldiers, but it’s also a good way for Soldiers to get recognized in their units.

“Its going to be a good experience and hopefully help me one day for the Audie Murphy board,” said Sgt. Salvador Mojica, 252nd Theater Signal Company.

The Audie Murphy board’s winner is elected into an elite organization of NCOs who have demonstrated performance, inherent leadership qualities and abilities characterized by those of Sgt. Audie Murphy (the highest decorated Soldier in World War II).

Soldiers participating in the Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter Board were tested on a variety of military tasks.

They were told most of the tasks beforehand so they could study and prepare, but one task wasn’t revealed until the Soldier was standing in front of the tester.

The mystery task really tested how many hours the Soldier put into studying for the board.

“My wife helped me study a lot,” said Sgt. Frank Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment,

56th Sig. Bn. “She was the soul driving force behind me going to the board.”

Soldiers were tested on camouflage, evaluating a casualty, decontamination, first aid and the mystery task was to inspect a vehicle in a tactical environment.

The Soldiers also had to complete a day and night land navigation course, and take an Army Physical Fitness test.

All that in itself is hard enough but the 93rd Sig. Bde. wasn’t done with them yet.

The Soldiers and NCOs had to appear before a board, and be drilled with questions from first sergeants and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Thomas Jr., 93rd Sig. Bde. command sergeant major.

“Were not going to give away the Soldier and NCO of the Quarter Board, said Sgt. 1st Class Eduardo Ledesma, who tested the Soldiers. “You have to earn the right to be Soldier or NCO of the Quarter.”

After Thomas and the rest of the testers were finished questioning the Soldiers – Soldiers and NCOs got the results back.

Lewis won Soldier of the Quarter. He was recently promoted to sergeant, which is why he was competing for Soldier of the Quarter.

Mojica won NCO of the Quarter Board. Mojica will be going on to the post board, which Lewis won’t be able to attend because he will be in Primary Leadership Development Course at Fort Benning, Ga. Taking Lewis’s place is runner up Spc. Richard Miller, 235th Satellite Signal Co.



Photo by Spc. Brandon Aird

**Sgt. Frank Lewis, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 56th Signal Battalion, puts on Nuclear, Biological and Chemical gloves after “gas-gas-gas” was called by Sgt. 1st Class Eduardo Ledesma, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 93rd Sig. Bde. Lewis was being tested by Ledesma on different military tasks for the Soldier of the Quarter Board.**



# Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

## Army Emergency Relief campaign in full swing

**Sgt. Darryl Moore**  
2005 AER military campaign coordinator

It's time. The annual Army Emergency Relief Campaign officially began March 1.

AER has been in existence for 63 years. The Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff incorporated AER in 1942 to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers.

Through those years, AER has been to help the Army "take care of its own."

More than \$900 million has been provided to 2.8 million members of the Army family during times of financial crisis.

AER receives no federal funding. That means AER is dependent on contributions from Soldiers, loan repayments and private donations.

That's why we conduct annual installation campaigns. And AER assists more than active duty personnel.

The AER assists active duty, their dependents, reservists and National Guard members on continuous active duty for more than 30 days and their dependents, retirees and their dependents, as well as widow(ers) and orphans of eligible members.

While you may know that AER assists when a Soldier needs to go home on emergency leave, you may not be aware that AER also provides funds to prevent

eviction, disconnection of utilities, or when a medically necessary procedure requires an upfront payment.

Army Emergency Relief can even help Soldiers with pre-funeral costs for dependents that must be paid before insurance benefits are received.

In addition, the AER scholarship program is available. In November 2003, Reader's Digest magazine described AER as "one of those charities worth trusting with your donated dollars."

A major watchdog organization for charities, CharityNavigator, has awarded AER a four out of four star rating.

Everyone must remember that Army Emergency Relief provides Army leadership a valuable tool to accomplish the

mission.

Soldiers must be ready to lead, protect and to defend. Soldiers who have financial problems cannot be ready.

Army Emergency Relief is ready to help you take care of Soldiers.

Please be ready with your contribution during this year's campaign.

As your installation military campaign coordinator, I am eager to help you get started with unit fundraising. We can make this campaign a record-breaking one.

Let me know how I can help you at your unit with publicity or contacting Soldiers for contributions.

For additional information or assistance, contact me at 791-2147.

## Feedback...

By Spc. Armando Monroig

### *How valuable is AER to the Army?*



I think it is real valuable but there's room for improvement such as coming up with other ways to get donations from other sources to help the program work a lot better.

**Sgt. 1st Class Michael Smith**  
3rd Battalion,  
108th Division, Signal



I think Army Emergency Relief is an incredibly valuable program. It helps. We don't all get paid that much. It takes care of us when we need to be taken care of.

**Pfc. Jonathon Beige**  
Company B, 447th  
Signal Battalion



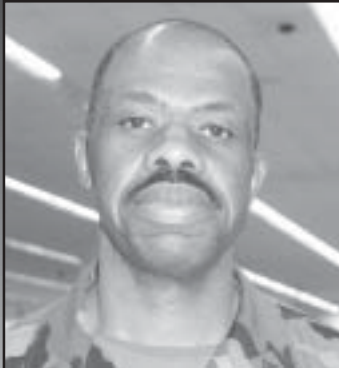
It is very valuable to the Army because many Soldiers, when they first come into the Army, they don't know anything about financial aid. AER allows them access to assistance when they find themselves in a financial crisis.

**Command Sgt. Maj. Jacqueline Halton**  
56th Signal Battalion



It is a very valuable resource. It provides a lot of benefits for Soldiers, especially those young Soldiers who may have a financial need for it: to keep from getting the lights cut off or thrown out of their apartment.

**Sgt. 1st Class Shawn McGuire**  
NCO Academy



It is a tremendous value to the Army. It helps Soldiers who desperately need assistance. Sometimes they are granted an amount they don't have to pay back. I had to use it early in my career.

**Sgt. Maj. Charles Scriven**  
HHC,  
93rd Signal Brigade



It's very important. I used it once. Soldiers have emergencies and it's one of the programs that assist Soldiers in that situation. I am very grateful for the program.

**Laverne Wright**  
Retired Army

## Private Murphy

By Mark Baker

*'When duty calls'*



## Why I Serve: Airman appreciates opportunities found in military

**Kathleen Rhem**  
American Forces Press Service

### NAVALSTATION GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba

— "Like anybody else, I've had bad and positive things happen to me in the military, but I always look at the brighter side of things," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Jacqueline Borrero.

Borrero is an information manager in the public affairs office for Joint Task Force Guantanamo. She said she chooses not to let negative experiences define her career.

Originally from Los Angeles, the 23-year-old airman joined the military for reasons that recruiters have been touting since the beginning of the all-volunteer force: quality health care, housing and education benefits.

Borrero said she most values the chance to further her education on the Air Force's dime. After four years in the Air Force, she's 11 credits short of her associate's degree through the Community



Photo by Sgt. Scott Griffin

### Borrero in Cuba.

College of the Air Force and hopes to keep working toward a bachelor's degree.

She also said she appreciates the high level of support she and her family receive from the Air Force. Borrero is married to another airman, who is assigned to a stateside base.

The couple has a 2-year-old daughter, Aurea. She said having her daughter during an overseas assignment to Germany was a very positive experience. "Everybody was just taking care of me, military

and civilian," she said.

As an information manager, Borrero generally completes a lot of paperwork and works on computers. Her duties at "Gitmo" — as troops generally refer to the island base — are a little different, she said. Borrero's duties here include filing situation reports to higher headquarters and briefing newcomers to the base about the mission of the public affairs office.

Variety is just another thing Borrero said she likes about being in the Air Force. "I like doing different things, always keeping myself busy," she said.

She also said she appreciates that servicemembers here don't live in tents, as earlier rotations of troops did, but in air-conditioned, prefabricated buildings.

It's not all rosy here, though. Life's not always easy for a woman airman vastly outnumbered by men. What doesn't Borrero like about life at Gitmo? "The dirt, the heat, and all the guys."

## The Signal

### News Office (706)791-7069

Nelson Hall Room 209, Fax 791-5463  
[www.gordon.army.mil/pao](http://www.gordon.army.mil/pao)

### Advertising Office (706)724-2122

P.O. Box 948, Waynesboro, Ga. 30830  
Ads may be faxed to 706-554-2437

**Commanding General:** Maj. Gen. Janet A. Hicks  
**Garrison Commander:** Col. Karen Adams  
**Public Affairs Officer:** James L. Hudgins  
**Command Information Officer:** Nancy Martin  
**NCOIC:** Master Sgt. Robin Brown  
**Civilian Editor:** Steve Brady  
**Military Editor:** Spc. Nicole Robus  
**Staff Writer:** Spc. Armando Monroig  
**Editorial Office:** Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 29801 Room 209, 520 Chamberlain Ave., Fort Gordon, Ga. 30905-5735

**Civilian Printer:** Citizen Newspapers  
**Publisher:** Roy F. Chalker Jr.  
**General Manager:** Bonnie K. Taylor  
**Sales Representative:** Faye Watkins and Deborah Kitchens  
This Civilian Enterprise Newspaper is an authorized publication for all personnel at Fort Gordon. Contents of *The Signal* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, or the U.S. Army Signal Center. *The Signal* is published weekly using offset production.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, or the Citizen Newspapers, of the products or services advertised.  
Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser is

confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.  
*The Signal* is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon. The Signal is published by the Citizen Newspapers, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon.  
The contracting officer serves as liaison between the civilian printer

and the commanding general. Letters to the editor must be signed with the author's printed name and address included.  
Requests for use of information by other news organizations should be directed to the Public Affairs Office. Pictures not otherwise credited are official U.S. Army photographs. Army News Service and American Forces Information Service material is used.  
Opinions expressed are those of individuals, and are not to be considered those of the Department of the Army or its agencies.  
Distribution on post is free, and circulation is 18,500 per week.



# Weekend events

Charmain Z. Brackett  
Contributing writer

CINDERELLA

Aquinas High School will present Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella at 7:30 p.m. today, Saturday and Sunday at the Imperial Theatre, 749 Broad St.

This version of the fairy tale classic features a king with pants too tight, a shy prince and a comedic family of stepmother and stepsisters.

Tickets range from \$5 to \$15 each.

AIKEN TRIALS

The Aiken Trials are the first leg of Aiken’s Triple Crown horse racing event.

As many as 10,000 people have attended the horse race held at the Aiken Training Track on Two Notch Road.

Gates open at 10:30 a.m. Saturday with the first race beginning at 1 p.m.

For ticket information, call 278-4849.

REGATTA

The Augusta Invitational Rowing Regatta is Saturday at Langley Pond, U.S. Highway 1 and Langley Dam Road in Langley, S.C.

Collegiate rowers from across the United States will participate in the event. For more information, call (803) 642-7559.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Mobley

**A Navy Knighthawk helicopter transports relief supplies between the amphibious assault ship USS Saipan and American troops in Port au Prince, Haiti, in support of New Horizons.**

## New Horizons for troops in Haiti, El Salvador

Army News Service

**MIAMI** – U.S. military forces began deploying to Haiti and El Salvador in February to conduct humanitarian and civic assistance operations as part of exercise New Horizons 2005.

The three-month exercise in Haiti will focus on building three schoolhouses and drilling three potable water wells. In addition, medical units will conduct free medical clinics for the benefit of the population.

The New Horizons exercise in El Sal-

vador will provide two new schools and three clinics in areas of San Vicente that were hit by earthquakes.

Haiti and El Salvador are among several nations benefiting from the New Horizons exercises during the current fiscal year.

New Horizons is sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command and involves the deployment of U.S. service members to countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

*(Information provided by U.S. Southern Command news releases.)*

## LWN *From page 1*

“That was the first major finding of this fight,” said Smith. “It’s one thing to talk about joint, it’s quite another to get all of your programs, doctrine, organizations, training pieces and material systems design lined up so you are fielding a common joint network.”

The second major finding Smith said was in reference to Training and Doctrine Command’s transformation that involves the development of Units of Execution, Units of Action and Unit of Employment.

“We found out during the course of the scenario that 33 percent of the command posts that fought in the close fight, the source of those units came from UHEY organizations,” said Smith.

He said that if a common network is not created and certain elements of the Unit of Employment aren’t modernized, there will be mixed networks fighting side by side with difficult network operations and engineering requirements.

“It has let us all to understand how best to modernize the fleet,” said Smith.

Among those the LWN2 delegation briefed during their TDY trip were the Department of the Army staff, the joint staff, the Defense Information Systems Agency and Maj. Gen. Marilyn Quagliotti, vice director of DISA, Lt. Gen. John Curran, director of the Futures Center, Lt. Gen. James Lovelace, G-3 of the Army, and culminated with a brief to Gen. Kevin Byrnes, TRADOC commander.

Another major finding of the LWN war games was that describing the battle space by pro-

grams was the wrong approach, said Smith.

“Instead, describe the battle space by the capabilities required at various locations in this battle space, then turn to programs and task organize them so they can provide tailored capabilities to the fight,” he said.

Another significant finding dealt with the airborne layer of LandWarNet that Smith said is being filled up with unmanned aerial vehicles.

“The concept to control those and the means by which to rotate the various missions they might be involved in, is yet to be worked out,” said Smith, and added the Aviation School is now working on developing a plan.

He said the airborne layer is an enabler in the forward fight, relieving the network of bandwidth constraints, allowing the Soldier with more situational awareness that he would otherwise have.

Another major issue raised was the complexity of network services, a series of applications and policies that are embedded into computers, routers and switches.

“These network services enable the information to be translated into meaningful terms such as voice, data or video imagery,” stated Smith.

Network services, that he said rely on an architecture of servers that are distributed throughout the battle space, and must be tailored so the command post and users aren’t overwhelmed with information they don’t need.

“This server architecture is a critical gap right now,” said Smith.

The final finding Smith said he shared with the various commanders was about the spiraling nature of modernization.

“We will probably never get to the point where we stop modernizing,” said Smith. “The days of having a communications capability that looks the same for 10 or 15 years – those days are over.”

He said the software based network is going to be ever changing – probably every two to three years. A simultaneous modernization of organizations world-wide is what’s necessary.

“You need organizations de-

signed specifically to ensure the synchronized modernization and configuration of departing units,” said Smith.

He said the close relationship between future capabilities making their way into the modular force is a very close relationship and that the war games demonstrated how close that was.

Not only was the TDY trip used to share the findings with senior leadership, but Smith said it was also to receive feedback.

“They have observations that can invigorate our own findings and guide us in the direction for follow-up actions: budget, resource, organizational and training decisions,” said Smith.

# DEA agents finish training

**Bridgett Siter**  
*TRADOC News Service*

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** – The United Nations says Afghanistan is the world’s leading supplier of heroin, and money from the traffic fuels terrorist activity around the world. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration found a solution – FAST.

DEA Foreign Advisory and Support Teams have been training at Fort Benning since January to prepare to deploy to Afghanistan, where they’ll help that country’s police force establish an effective narcotics agency.

“Certainly it’s different than what a lot of us have done, and it’s not what people see on TV,” said E. Knoth, FAST’s deputy chief. “A big part of it will be mentoring, training and advising the Afghan counternarcotics unit.”

It’s a different kind of mission for the agents and intelligence analysts, who typically counter drug operations state-side, but it’s no less dangerous.

Aside from assisting Afghan forces, the agents will also “investigate, identify, target and disrupt” illicit drug trafficking in a volatile country. That will likely make them targets for terrorists.

“Afghanistan is a war zone,” Knoth said. “We want to draw upon the Soldiers’ experience because they’ve been there for some time now, and they can tell us what to expect and how to operate in that environment.”

Toward that end, more than 30 agents and analysts spent a week at Fort Benning’s Warrior Training Center, where they

learned small-unit tactics, pathfinder skills, medical-evacuation procedures and aircraft orientation – which means the correct way to enter and exit an aircraft on a “hot” landing zone.

The week culminated with a counterdrug operation at the McKenna MOUT site, Fort Benning’s premiere training facility for military operations in urban terrain. There they conducted a mock search-and-seize exercise.

2nd Lt. Sam Hone was the officer in charge of DEA training at the Warrior Training Center. He said this was the first time an Army unit, other than Special Forces, has had the opportunity to train DEA.

The center conducts 11 pre-Ranger courses and eight air-assault courses each year. The cadre tailored elements of both to meet FAST’s specific

needs, Hone said.

“(We) took the mission of preparing them for deployment very seriously,” he said, “as though we were deploying ourselves.”

The classroom teaching and field training was invaluable, Knoth said, but the agents, enforcement officers, learned valuable lessons in their “down time” – like the chow hall at the CONUS Replacement Center, where they stayed.

“We learned a lot just chatting with guys who were over there,” he said. “They could tell us what equipment worked and what didn’t, what to expect from the Afghans, that kind of thing.”

The biggest challenge for the agents wasn’t training with the Rangers at the Warrior Training Center – it was the cadre’s constant use of Army acronyms, Knoth said with a laugh.

“It took a while to figure out what they were talking about,” he said, recalling an incident when a Soldier asked the agents if they’d considered using mules in Afghanistan. “We were trying to figure out what M-U-L-E stood for. It had to be an acronym.”

Turns out the Soldier was talking about a pack mule, commonly used in Afghanistan’s mountainous terrain.

Two six-man FAST teams will be in Afghanistan mid-March, and another will rotate with them 90 days after. Knoth believes the DEA agents leave Fort Benning “better prepared and more confident.”

“We’ll be working alongside military assets over there, so not only do we need the tactical training we got here, but we need to feel comfortable with them also,” he said. “I think we’ve achieved our goal here.”



Photo by Spc. Eliamar Castanon

**Drug Enforcement Administration special agents exit a helicopter during training with the Pre-Ranger Course cadre.**

## Operation Enduring Love

**Enables servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan to connect with family and loved ones at home**

**WINTHROP, Wash.** – HomeMovie.Com recently announced the launch of Operation Enduring Love – a project designed to connect friends and family with their loved ones deployed overseas in Operation(s) Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

This free offer allows families and friends to send their love around the world in a way never before possible.

Understanding that many deployed troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have not seen their family and friends in weeks or months, Operation Enduring Love allows friends and family to share up to 30 minutes of personal video footage through the HomeMovie.Com website.

The families’ tapes will be converted into StreamingDVD – a technology that allows entire videos to be streamed and watched over the Internet

in a password protected, DVD-style interface. The deployed servicemember may then watch the video from a broadband capable computer as many times as they like for an entire year, taking them briefly away from the conflict and back home.

“The goal of this free gift is to enable those stationed half-way around the world to share in the special moments that would otherwise be missed from home,” said John Larsen, CEO and founder of HomeMovie.Com.

“This heart-felt idea was first conceived last month when my wife heard a story about a new mother serving in Iraq and the heartbreak of missing out on the most precious moments of her child’s life,” said Larsen.

For information, go to [www.homemovie.com](http://www.homemovie.com) or call (877) 576-8777.

*(From a homemovie.com news release.)*

## NSC wins award

**Charmain Z. Brackett**  
*Contributing writer*

As a partner with the U.S. Army, the National Science Center has received a creativity award from the Department of Defense.

Headquartered at Augusta’s Fort Discovery, the National Science Center has many outreaches including a mobile science center staffed by active duty Army personnel.

A high-definition video featuring Fort Discovery’s exhibits is part of the van demonstration and received the award through the Department of Defense Visual Information Production Awards Competition.

“It’s not a typical program for the Army to see,” said Jan Hemphill of the National Science Center who served as technical advisor for the Spirit of Discovery video. “We were pleased that the Army saw the importance of it.”

Produced through the Army’s Production Acquisition Division, U.S. Army Multimedia Visual Information Directorate in Washington, the video features children involved

with the exhibits at Fort Discovery.

They are playing video games at first and then are transported inside the video games to learn about math and science. The video was designed to have a high-energy feel to get children interested in math and science, Hemphill said.

At the end, the children were shown in careers heavily involved in math and science.

The Army’s Multimedia Visual Information Directorate nominated the video for the award.

The award was for 2003-2004. More than 50 videos were nominated for awards in several categories. Winners were chosen in October, and first place awards were presented at a ceremony at the Pentagon last month.

First, second and third prize awards went to videos in four categories – training, recruitment, documentaries and internal/public information. Three received creativity awards and one received special mention.

“It gave us a boost,” said Hemphill. “We didn’t go into this production trying to win anything.”



# ‘Can Do’ infantrymen distribute shoes to Sadr kids

**Spc. Ben Brody**  
*Army News Service*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – Operation Happy Feet brought smiles to children of Sadr City as Soldiers of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry distributed sneakers at Marakah al-Taf Elementary School Feb. 28.

Working in conjunction with Civil Affairs, Soldiers purchased 500 pairs of shoes from a local vendor to give out at the northeastern Baghdad school, according to Capt. Timothy Terese, B Co. commander.

“We go around to lots of schools in the area, basically every day, to make sure they have the proper equipment to function,” said 1st Lt. Jason Rocks, B Co. fire support officer and effects coordinator. “Blackboards, pencils, paper – we check that they are able to function on a day-to-day basis.”

Rocks, of Puyallup, Wash., said the missions help foster support for coalition forces in an area once considered firmly under insurgent control.

“Right now, (Operation Happy Feet is) immediate gratification,” Rocks said. “But everything we do for them helps them and their families realize that the Iraqi government and coalition forces care about the Iraqi people.”

In addition to the company of ‘Can Do’ infantrymen present, a squad of Iraqi Army soldiers helped provide security and translations during the visit.

The school is coeducational, meaning girls have class in the morning and boys in the afternoon.

“We’re trying to get the kids of Sadr City some new shoes, and hand out copies of Baghdad

Kids,” said Spc. Brandon Wise, 307th Psychological Operations Company, Team 1033, a Missouri Reserve unit. “It’s a fun magazine for kids – it’s got stuff about dinosaurs, outer space, the Olympics – things kids like. It’s got some important safety and hygiene messages too, like ‘remember to brush your teeth’ and ‘don’t point toy guns at Soldiers.’”

Wise, of Greenville, Ill., and Staff Sgt. Travis Butler, also of the 307th, handed out bags of school supplies, coloring books and issues of Baghdad Kids.

“It’s really important for us to make a good impression on these kids before they grow up,” Butler, of St. Clair, Mo., said. “The kids are the future of Iraq, and fostering a better relationship now will make for better relationships later.”

The morning’s classes of girls lined up to get their feet measured, and receive the white tennis shoes. The girls quietly giggled as Soldiers passed the shoes forward to Chaplain (Capt.) Steven Hommel, 3/15 chaplain, who handed them out. Several Soldiers remarked at how well-behaved the girls were.

“The American schoolkids back in the states don’t realize how lucky they are, when you look at someplace like Iraq,” 1st Sgt. Donald Rangel, B Co., first sergeant, said. “We passed out these shoes just so the kids here can get from home to school without hurting themselves.”

“It makes me feel good to do this for the kids here,” the San Antonio native continued. “I’ve got six kids of my own, three of them in elementary school.”



Courtesy photo

**Capt. Steven Hommel, 3/15 Inf. chaplain, hands a pair of sneakers and a coloring book to a student at Marakah al-Taf elementary school in Sadr City, Iraq. Soldiers distributed about 250 pairs of shoes at the school, in Northeastern Baghdad, Feb. 28.**

The Soldiers distributed about half of the 500 pairs of shoes to the girls, and will give the rest to the school’s boys later in the week.

“This is one of many missions we have, providing aid to Sadr City residents,”

Terese said. “We come out here every day. We’re also working right now to get a functional sewage system installed in the neighborhood, which will make for a much safer neighborhood for these kids to grow up in.”

## Distance education offers new opportunities to military students

*Special to the Signal*

Sgt. Mathew Bartley, 67th Signal Battalion, recently returned from a six-month deployment in Iraq and Kuwait. The deployment was not quite what he’d imagined, he said, but it was better than he’d expected.

“We were able to avoid any major combat, and returned with zero combat casualties,” he says. “I can’t hope for anything better than that. Our unit provided communications to units around Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait.”

“The majority of the people of Iraq and Kuwait seemed very grateful that we are over there, helping spread democracy and freedom. The U.S. military and civilian workforce have done so much to help Iraq, and I was glad to be a part of it,” he said.

Bartley has been in the Army since his senior year of high school.

“I wasn’t sure what I wanted in life, and my only plan so far was to continue working at K-Mart. I left school one day and a recruiter approached me with his offer. I accepted reluctantly at first, but knew soon that that was a great decision,” he says.

While Bartley is happy with his military career and has never regretted his decision to join the Army at such a young age, he gradually realized that if he was going to achieve his professional and personal goals, he needed a college degree.

He knew that a college degree would allow him to advance within the military, and would help him in the civilian world after he retired from the Army. However, with unpredictable career obligations and the constant possibility of deployment or relocation, he felt that he’d never be able to succeed at a traditional university.

Then Bartley found a solution to that problem. In 2003, he enrolled as an Information Systems major at Grantham University. Bartley was deployed to Cuba at the time, and Grantham is located in Slidell, La.

Luckily, Grantham is a distance learning institution, and all of Bartley’s educational needs – from completing coursework to consulting professors – can be met online and at his convenience.

Now less than a year away from earning his degree, Bartley has been able to keep up with his studies no matter where his military career has taken him.

Like many distance education institutions, Grantham is self-paced, so if Bartley needs to set aside his coursework from time to time to handle pressing career obligations, that’s not a problem. He can pick up right where he left off.

Bartley is one of about 28 Grantham

students stationed at Fort Gordon, and he’s part of a larger trend in distance education. A U.S. Department of Education study found students enrolled in nearly 2.9 million college-level distance education courses in 2000-01, more than double the enrollment of 1997-98.

This new distance learning model is ideal for military personnel who are deployed, move frequently because of temporary duty assignments, or whose duty schedules make it difficult to attend traditional evening classes.

“I think distance education is a great option for military members,” said Bartley. “It gives you the flexibility to balance your education and work however you want. There are times when, as Soldiers and Sailors, we are unable to do anything but focus on our mission.”

“Grantham allows us to put the book down for a week, and only focus on what is important at the time. Afterwards, you can pick up your book and continue at your own pace again. During extended field exercises, a few Soldiers are unable to get permission to go to a class off base,” he said. “I don’t have that problem. I pack my school books right in my rucksack or duffle bag and work on it whenever I get the chance.”

Sgt. Malik Meadows, another Grantham student at Fort Gordon, agrees with Bartley about the benefits of distance education.

**“I think distance education is a great option for military members.”**

**Sgt. Matthew Bartley**  
**67th Signal Battalion**

Meadows, who has been in the Army for 12 years, is nearing the end of his military career. Saturday is his official last day as a battalion reenlistment NCO in the 93rd Signal Brigade. He’s a father of two young children, and like Bartley, has been a Grantham student since 2003. He’d tried to complete coursework at several traditional universities in the past, but scheduling conflicts always caused him to drop out.

“It’s hard to go to a traditional college when you’re in the military, because every two or three years you have to move,” says Meadows. “Even if you stay in one place for a while, you’ve got other responsibilities. With distance education, you can take your books everywhere. I get a lot of my schoolwork done on my lunch

break.”

As he neared the end of his military career, Meadows started to think about the skills he would need in the civilian world. He knew that the Army had given him all of the career skills that he would need to be successful, but he knew that he’d need to work on a degree as well.

“In today’s world, you need that piece of paper, period,” says Meadows. “Education is important to me – I watched my mom work in a factory for years, and she would always get laid off. Finally, she got tired of it and went back to school. It took her six years, but she got an MA in Social Work.”

“I was so proud of her, and I want to set that kind of example for my two kids. I know that with the skills I developed in the Army and my degree from Grantham, I can walk in the door anywhere and be successful,” he said.

In addition to the benefits of an education flexible enough to accommodate their unique situation, Bartley, Meadows and their fellow students are able to take advantage of another benefit – a full scholarship which takes care of all educational expenses not covered by the military.

Their education is funded through Grantham’s military scholarship program, which is available to all servicemen and women. The military scholarship covers all books, software and tuition not covered by the Department of Defense after tuition assistance or Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support is applied.

Grantham University is offering an unlimited number of scholarships to all of the nation’s Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. These scholarships are available to reserve members and to active duty military personnel. Grantham has additional scholarship programs for veterans and military families.

Both Bartley and Meadows have a few words of advice for any soldiers at Fort Gordon who want a college degree.

“Definitely do it,” says Bartley. “A college degree is a lifetime achievement. It is a goal that is worth every day, hour and minute that you spend trying to achieve it. It is never too late to start a degree program.”

“It’s a hard road, but keep your eye on the prize,” adds Meadows. “Once it’s over, it will pay off.”

To learn more about distance education, contact the education center at 791-2000. More information about Grantham’s programs and scholarships can be found at [www.grantham.edu](http://www.grantham.edu) or by calling (800) 955-2527.

(From a Grantham University information release.)

## These four walls

**Chaplain (Maj.) Victor Richardson**  
*116th Military Intelligence Group chaplain*

These four walls greet me. Everyday, I get off work, go home and these four walls greet me.

They seem to call my name.

I know what you’re thinking. Get a life, or get a friend. Well, I’ve got two friends, the remote control and the computer.

I know what you’re thinking. I should get another friend to talk to about my problems or concerns.

Well, I picked up a friend the other day named Gin. Gin met my other friend named tonic and we had a party. I sat on the sofa and talked about concerns with my friends and another night faded away.

How can we be surrounded by people, and still be lonely? How can some people be married and still be lonely? Sometimes what people do to rid themselves of loneliness is comical.

Party until there’s no party left, drink until they can’t stand up, get so high there’s no need for an airplane; and of course they can marry someone having only known them for a few short months.

Look at our post; so many people and many are lonely because loneliness lives within the heart.

Being lonely, who needs it! Webster defines being lonely as without companions, marked by aloneness, unfrequented by people, dejected. It also means God forsaken. As I talk to people I have come to view this empty and hollow feeling called loneliness as separation from those who

love you or those you want to love you. Separation by time, location, distance, or in some cases emotional pain and philosophical differences.

We all get lonely at times. We long for a relative or a friend we have not seen in a while. We search for a friend or companion to stand with us especially in hard times. Have you heard this, “I’ll be with you, you can count on me.” You look around and poof like magic they are gone. Perhaps you have been told, “I will back you 100 percent.” Yea, they are back there, a long way back there.

Loneliness is a condition of the heart that can only be soothed by someone’s love and care for us. May I introduce you to some one who loves you?

It may sound impossible but the person who is in love with you loves you more than a mother or father. He is closer than a sister or a brother and not separated from you by distance, time or location. In fact, we can say like Paul in Romans 8, “What shall separate me from the love of Christ, shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness, or peril or sword.”

“NO! For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, neither height, nor depth nor any other creature, shall separate us from the love which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.”

These four walls need not stress you out. So, you think you are alone. Remember, God is always with you. For he promised he would never leave us, never leave us alone.



# Community Events

## BOSS cruise

Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers is hosting a five-day cruise **Nov. 14 to 19** to Key West and Nassau. Cost is \$364-\$414 per person depending on cabin type, and includes a cocktail party, \$100 per cabin on-board credit, BOSS T-shirts, clubs, parties and island excursions.

BOSS programs from the southeast are participating. A \$25 deposit is due by Sunday; balance due by September. Each installation is being allotted 12 slots, first come, first serve. For more information, see your unit BOSS representative or call Ayanna Wiggins at 791-7862.

## Magic show

The Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre hosts a magic show **April 2**; dinner begins at 7 p.m., the show at 8 p.m. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 (military ID card holders) and \$12 for adults and \$8 for children under 12 (civilians). Call 793-8552 for reservations and information.

## Health promotion

The Civilian Health Promotion Program's spring session is **April 19 to June 9** at the Health and Wellness Center. The program meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. for exercise and educational classes. Participants must have supervisor approval and healthcare provider clearance to participate. Space is limited to the first 25 people to turn in required forms. For information call 787-6756.

## Be an FCC provider

Would you like to work from your home, earn an income with a rewarding career and a degree as a Child Development Associate. The Family Child Care Program is having registration for all new applicants living in government quarters from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **April 20 to 23** in Building 45400; class starts May 16. For information call 791-3993.

## Easter service

An Easter sunrise service will be held at Freedom Park on Rice Road, at 6:30 a.m. **March 27**. The speaker will be Chaplain (Col.) Albert Smith, southeast region, Installation Management Agency, Fort McPherson, Ga. In the event of rain the service will be held in Alexander Hall on Chamberlain Avenue at the same time.

The service is open to the public. For information, call 791-2876.

## Golf tournament

The Evans High School JROTC third annual golf tournament tees off at noon **Saturday** at Gordon Lakes golf course.

The four-player scramble cost \$40 per player including lunch and is open to the first 72 players. For information contact Mo or Gabriele Barnett at 863-6549.

## U-DO-IT

The U-DO-IT customer service hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday, and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday in Building 41104 (Brems Barracks); closed federal holidays.

U-DO-IT training classes are on the first Wednesday of each month for unit and activity coordinators and begin at 7:30 a.m. in Building 2222. Classes for family housing occupants are on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. in Building 2222 on 11th Avenue and 13th Street. For information, call 791-3942.

## 73rd Ord. Bn. ball

The 73rd Ordnance Battalion is having its annual battalion ball at 6 p.m. **April 1** at the Gordon Club. For tickets and information, call Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Kafel at 791-4187.

## Responsibility change

The 442nd Signal Battalion is having a change of responsibility at 7:30 a.m. **April 1** at the Signal Towers flagpole.

Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Golston Jr. will relinquish responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Vernon Praymous.

A retirement dinner for Golston is at 6 p.m. March 31 at the Gordon Club, Green Room.

RSVP by today to Sgt. 1st Class Charles Bailey Jr. at [baileyjr@gordon.army.mil](mailto:baileyjr@gordon.army.mil) or 791-3370.

## Returning to college

Augusta State University is having a college re-entry workshop beginning **Tuesday** for adults returning to college. Topics include financial aid and test review. For information and to register, call 737-1632.

## Spring cleanup

March has been declared Fort Gordon Environmental Cleanup Month, a time for all area and facility supervisors to ensure areas not cleaned on a daily basis are cleaned.

Unit, billeting, departmental, training, and common areas

will be cleaned **Monday to Friday**; housing areas will be cleaned 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **today** (makeup date for housing is Friday). The assigned areas will be inspected March 31 by the Garrison command sergeant major.

## Scholarships available

Scholarships will be awarded again this spring to high school and college students by the Augusta-Fort Gordon Chapter, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

Applications are accepted until **March 30**.

Scholarships from \$1000-\$2000 are available; scholarships are given by AFCEA to encourage the study of engineering, math and computer sciences.

To be eligible, candidates must be full-time students at accredited institutions, majoring in computer science, engineering or related field, or be an AFCEA member.

Applications and information are available on the AFCEA website at [www.afcea-augusta.org](http://www.afcea-augusta.org).

## Special Olympics

The Special Olympics Games will be co-sponsored by Gracewood School and Fort Gordon at 10 a.m. **March 31** at Barton Field, near the quarter mile track. (Rain date is March 31.) For information, call Bill Browning at 791-6099.

## Retirement ceremony

The March retirement ceremony is at 9:30 a.m. **March 31** in Alexander Hall. For information, call Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Swain at 791-3702.

## Lawn care

Beginning **April 1**, the U-DO-IT store will issue grass seed and fertilizer to family housing area residents. Each household is authorized three, one-pound bag of seeds per year and two 20-pound bags of fertilizer. For information, call 791-3942.

## Health awareness

Eisenhower Army Medical Center's Diabetes Education Committee marks American Diabetes Alert Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Tuesday** at the Post Exchange.

For information, contact Maj. Victor Yu at 787-2243 or Lt. Col. Sherri Baker at 787-5354.

## Alzheimer's disease

The Augusta Alzheimer's Association will speak about the disease from 6-7 p.m.

**Tuesday** at the Family Outreach Center, Building 33512. For information, call 791-3579.

## Girl Scout awards

The Central Savannah River Girl Scout Council is looking for outstanding women who have made contributions in their field and to their community and who serve as a role model for girls and women.

The categories are: arts, business, community service, education, government, health and professions.

Deadline for nominations is **March 25**. Nomination forms are available at [www.girlscoutscsra.org](http://www.girlscoutscsra.org).

For information, call Susan Simmons at 774-0505.

## Graduation exercises

Military personnel who completed college during the last eight months and did not have the opportunity to participate in college graduation exercises should contact the Education and Services Division if they would like to participate in graduation exercises June 8.

The ceremony is for military students who had a permanent change of station and missed, or will miss, graduation exercises at other installations. Request must be received by **Friday**. For information call Gloria McIntyre at 791-2000.

## Art fest

The Artists' Guild of Columbia County presents "Art in the Barn," an evening of art, music, wine and food, 7 p.m. **April 23** at the Riverwood Plantation Barn, 5123 Riverwood Parkway in Evans.

Tickets cost \$7 at the door. For information contact Nancy Cannon at 854-8974 or go to [www.artistguildcc.org](http://www.artistguildcc.org).

## Energy conservation

When you are away from home for one or more days, help conserve energy by turning off all lights, using a timer or a low wattage bulb for security at night. Turn off television, radios, fans and small appliances, and in the summer, raise the thermostat to 85 degrees and lower it back to 78 degrees when you return.



# Sports & Leisure

## Sports UPDATE

### SCRA run

The 13th annual Signal Corps Regimental Association 10K run and kids run/walk is 7:30 a.m. **May 21** (start and finish in front of the Regimental Noncommissioned Officer Academy).

Entry Fee is \$15 before May 1, \$20 after, \$25 day of race; kids entry is \$10. Entry fees are non-refundable; make checks payable to the Signal Corps Regimental Association. For information, e-mail [SCRARun@signalcorps.org](mailto:SCRARun@signalcorps.org).

### Hooah race

The Fourth Annual Army Hooah Race is at 7:30 a.m. **June 11** in Atlanta. Race events include a five-kilometer and 10-kilometer course, as well as a 100 yard tot trot for ages 10 and younger.

The cost for online registration is \$13 at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). Online registrations accepted until 11 p.m. May 29. Registration forms are also available for download at [www.ArmyHooahRace.army.mil](http://www.ArmyHooahRace.army.mil). Mail-in registration must be postmarked by May 27; late registration is \$17. For information call Sgt. Maj. Bill Bissonette at (404)464-8228 or Lt. Col. Sue Bozgoz at (404)469-7156.

### Touring company

The Bravo Army Theatre Touring Company presents "The Complete History of America (abridged)" at 7 p.m. **today** and **Saturday** at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre. The show is billed as a 90-minute rollercoaster ride through American history. Dinner begins at 7 p.m.; the show at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$27 for dinner and show (all patrons), \$15 for show only (some mature themes, show for teens and adults). Call 793-8552 for reservations and details.

### Women's golf

Gordon Lakes will be holding their Ladies Golf Program beginning **April 1**. Tee time is 9 a.m. For information, call Pauline Blandeburgo at 863-3747.

### Golf tournament

The Evans High School JROTC third annual golf tournament tees off at noon **Saturday** at Gordon Lakes golf course.

The four-player scramble cost \$40 per player including lunch and is open to the first 72 players. For information contact Mo or Gabriele Barnett at 863-6549.

### Special Olympics

The Special Olympics Games will be co-sponsored by Gracewood School and Fort Gordon at 10 a.m. **March 31** at Barton Field, near the quarter mile track. (Rain date is March 31.) For information, call Bill Browning at 791-6099.

### Health promotion

The Civilian Health Promotion Program's spring session is **April 19 to June 9** at the Health and Wellness Center. The program meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3-4 p.m. for exercise and educational classes. Participants must have supervisor approval and healthcare provider clearance to participate. Space is limited to the first 25 people to turn in required forms. For information call 787-6756.

## 518th Raiders score post unit-level basketball title



Quintrell Becton, 518th center, floats to the hoop as Charles Holmes, 513th shooting guard, attempts to defend during the Raiders' victory over the Knights March 10.

**Spc. Armando Monroig**  
*Signal staff*

The post unit-level basketball championship was decided after two exciting games March 10 at Gym 5, as 518th Tactical Installation Network Company defeated HHC-513th to claim the crown.

The action began in the first game of the night with the 518th Raiders completely dominating the 513th Knights, defeating them by the score of 75-40.

This forced an "if" game, to determine who would walk away with the trophy. The action continued into the second game, and a rejuvenated 513th team kept it close.

They took the lead for the first time with under 11 minutes to go in the first half, 6-5. They lost the lead but kept it close until 518th regained their composure and began to take control, ending the half with a six point lead, 18-12.

The 518th team did not look back as they continued to assert control for most of the second half. Scoring came from all over the court, inside, outside, the team played good defense and rebounded well.

With 10 minutes to go in the game, 518th increased their lead by 12 points, 34-22.

But 513th was not about to quit as several plays later, Deunte Stringfellow, shooting guard, nailed a three-pointer, making it 34-28 and then nailed a second one making it 36-31.

Then it was just a shoot-out to see who would score the most in the remaining minutes of the game.

As 513th tried to halt the 518th's offense, they attempted to shut down their three-point shooter, Aljamar Ward, guard, but 518th adjusted and fed the ball to the big man in the middle, Quintrell Becton, center.

That strategy didn't work

for long because with six minutes to go in the game, and the score 39-33, Ward nailed two three-pointers of his own, helping increase his team's lead to 42-33.

Stringfellow dropped a bomb from the outside again, as 513th inched their way back, narrowing the gap, 44-39 with under two minutes remaining in the game.

But they could not mount a comeback as time ran out and 518th held on for the win by the score of 49-44.

To say the 518th coach Adrian Miller was pleased with his team's performance would be an understatement.

"Our big man, Becton, was highly motivated and took it upon himself to take over the game," said Miller.

He said the momentum from the first game carried over to the second game and brought home the victory.

"We just ran the three-two zone, because we knew they liked to shoot, so we pretty much eliminated that from the equation," said Miller.

He said he is extremely proud of his team and that it is the best team he has ever coached.

Timothy Lowe, 513th coach, said his team was outmatched in the contest.

"They were a better team tonight," he said of his opponents. "They played better, overall."

He said his team not having a strong bench compared to their opponent and the loss of a star player due to injury had a big impact on the outcome of the evening.

But despite the loss, he is proud of his player's performance during the regular season and championship games.

"My guys played their heart out, they gave what they had," Lowe said.

This is the second championship in three years for the 518th.

## Soldiers display poise and skill in early season volleyball action

**Spc. Armando Monroig**  
*Signal staff*

Fort Gordon Unit Volleyball action took center stage Tuesday evening as Soldiers engaged in thrilling competition with Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion defeating Company A, 551st Signal Battalion in early season action.

In the best two-out-of-three event, C-73rd won the first game 25-20 and then the third game 15-9.

In the first game, C-73rd jumped out to take the early lead, looking strong from the get-go with the starters playing most of the game and bringing home the win.

The second game, more players were rotated into the lineup and C-73rd could not maintain control as they did the first game.

Their opponent took advantage and got the win in the second game.

In the third game, C-73rd went back to the starting line-up, their strongest line-up, and got the victory.

Nagita Sykes, A-551st coach, said her team went into the game a little overconfident and that contributed to their loss.

"You have to play them all," said Sykes, adding that it is chalked up as a loss but lessons will be learned from it.

She said their opponent communicated well with one

another on the court but her team did not.

In addition, she said they need to work on the fundamentals, brush off their skills so they can make it to the playoffs.

"We're going to make some corrections, make sure we follow through and make sure we don't do the same thing the next time around," she said.

Brian Miller, C-73rd coach, said this was a big win for his team.

"It was a good win for us. We had more participation and it was good fun. We enjoyed ourselves," said Miller.

He said his team's strength is the fact they are young and motivated.

Their weakness, he added, is lack of experience compared to most of the teams they may face.

"Hopefully youth will overcome experience down the line," he said.

"They did well today. I'm proud of them," Miller added.

Key players for C-73rd were James Pierce, net, and Daniel Stebbins, backline, who contributed to their team's victory by providing energy.

"They like being on the front line and enjoy the face-to-face confrontation with the opposing team," Miller said of the tandem.

He said they have cohesion from playing other unit level sports and bring that to the table on the volleyball team.



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

Players battle on the front line during C-73rd's and A-551st's volleyball game Tuesday.



# Virtual reality prepares students for parachuting

Lanorris Askew  
78th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.** – When you are plunging toward earth at speeds as fast as 20 feet per second, there is not a lot of time to think about your next course of action. Dave Dawson makes sure his students don't have to.

As the 19th Air Refueling Group's aircrew continuation training specialist, he uses a device called the Virtual Reality Hanging Harness Trainer to give students a semi-realistic parachuting scenario.

"We refamiliarize or reteach aircrew members (every three years) what they were taught during initial aircrew training," Dawson said.

The course is divided into two parts. The first portion is classroom instruction, where students review procedures to properly wear parachutes and survival equipment. They also go over the steps to get safely from the aircraft to the ground, and survival techniques after they land.

Following that, the students step into the world of virtual reality when they are strapped into a hanging harness dressed in complete survival gear.

The simulator allows them to hang from the harness just a few inches from the ground while experiencing the feel of a 4,000-foot jump through the use of a helmet and special goggles. It may not seem like a lifelike experience to the casual observer, but for the student it's realistic, officials said.

The trainer is connected to a computer system which allows him to plug in different scenarios.

Two monitors are connected to the trainer that feed and receive information to and from the student.

One monitor is an instructor monitor where the student's weight and scenarios are plugged in before the jump. The other shows what the student sees while wearing the goggles.

The helmet and goggles



Photo by Sue Sapp

**Airmen 1st Class Zach Lauritzen hangs from the harness trainer during his "jump." Lauritzen, a KC-135 Stratotanker boom operator, was taking a parachuting refamiliarization class.**

tracks the student's head position as he or she looks up or down, allowing other students and the instructor to see what he or she is seeing. When the jump is finished, the tape can be replayed from either the point of view of a stationary observer on the ground or from another parachuting person's view. The computer scores the jump and then the instructor and classmates can critique it.

The class takes about three hours.

"It allows us to do the training in the classroom where we eliminate the risk of injury that can occur during a real jump," Dawson said. "This is great

because their job is not jumping; their job is to fly the aircraft, and in the worst case scenario, get out if it's not going to make it back to a base and safely get home."

The trainer is used throughout Air Mobility Command, and it is a great confidence builder, said KC-135 boom operator Airmen 1st Class Zach Lauritzen.

"You go through the initial training and have it in memory, but to have a machine like that really helps you out," he said. "I am confident that if I ever had to bail out of the aircraft, I'm equipped with the right tools now."

# Science, technology help Airmen fight war on terror

**Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski**  
*Air Force Print News*

**WASHINGTON** – Science and technology are helping Airmen win the war on terror, a senior Air Force official told lawmakers March 10.

"The United States Air Force is committed to defending America by unleashing the power of science and technology," said James Engle, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for science, technology and engineering.

Engle and witnesses from other defense agencies' technology directorates testified in a hearing on the fiscal 2006 budget request before the House Armed Services Committee subcommittee on terrorism and unconventional threats.

Rep. Marty Sheehan, the committee's ranking member, said he considers funding for science and technology programs the single most important portion of the defense budget. He said better weapons benefit everyone.

To continue providing those weapons, Air Force officials requested \$1.98 billion in the fiscal 2006 budget for science and technology. This includes \$1.4 billion in core science and technology efforts, and \$77.8 million in joint unmanned combat air vehicle funding.

Sustained commitment to continued funding is critical to success of these emerging systems, Engle said. The technology America enjoys is a result of commitment by the United States to give the Air Force the things it needs.

"We must prepare for both traditional and new forms of terrorism (including) attack on our space assets, attacks on our information networks, cruise and ballistic missile attacks on our force and territory, and attacks by adversaries armed with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-explosive weapons," Engle said.

He explained how the products of Air Force science and technology defend America against terrorism at home and abroad. Some of the newest Air Force systems were on display in the building where the hearings were held.

The Battlefield Air Targeting Camera Autonomous Micro-Air Vehicle, or BATCAM, is an unmanned aerial vehicle that is five times smaller and 10 times lighter than the current model in the combat controller's kit.

A robot, called a Bombot, destroys improvised explosive devices. The small off-road

remote controlled vehicle, equipped with a small explosive charge delivery system, is now deployed in Iraq.

Engle also described technology that supports the joint warfighter.

One emerging technology uses Air Force expertise in metal-infused ceramics to develop more effective lightweight armor. Although intended for aircraft, the technology is being applied to body protection and has proved effective against shrapnel and small-arms fire. The armor is cheaper, lighter and easier to produce than standard plates, officials said.

Although the witnesses demonstrated similar innovative applications of technology, all said that capturing good ideas and turning them into deliverable systems posed a challenge.

Lawmakers also lamented the lag time in getting cutting-edge technological gear into the fight. Rep. John Kline said it is a recurring problem. He said small companies cannot get into the acquisition systems and that the system is way too slow.



Photo by Master Sgt. Gary Coppage

**The BATCAM unmanned aerial vehicle and the Bombot robot were on display as James Engle testified before the House Armed Services subcommittee on terrorism, unconventional threats and capabilities. He is the deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for science, technology and engineering.**



# Fort Campbell troops work to save lives

**Sgt. Michael Carden**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**CAMPTAJI, Iraq**—“Never lose a Soldier. No one dies on your bird.” This is the motto of the 50th Medical Evacuation Company of the 101st Airborne Division, deployed from Fort Campbell, Ky.

Almost every day since its arrival here in November 2004, the company has been challenged to live by that motto.

“When we get the medevac call, things are pretty chaotic,” said Sam Simons, a crew chief. “Dealing with casualties is never easy. You just do what you’ve got to do to help the medic save lives.” The company spent a year in Mosul, Iraq, during its first deployment to Iraq. The company’s members were home for only nine months before deploying again. They have flown more than 1,100 combat hours in Black Hawk helicopters.

The flight crews have completed more than 600 medical evacuation missions, transporting more than 800 casualties to combat support hospitals. About 50 percent of their missions have dealt with roadside landings on hasty landing zones, according to the company commander, Maj. William Howard.

Unit members agree no two missions are ever the same for the two pilots, crew chief and flight medic that make up a medical evacuation crew. Every time they receive a call, the possibilities and scenarios of what are in store are endless. They can’t afford to be unprepared or not proficient, said Staff Sgt. Thomas Harris, a flight medic.

“Every mission is different,” Harris said. “The call could be a mass (casualty) because of an insurgent attack or simply to pick up an appendicitis or hernia patient from his base camp’s troop medical clinic. We could take fire when we land. We might have to make a roadside landing in a city or land in an open field. You’ve got to learn to adapt pretty quickly.”

Adapting to different battle-

field environments is something the crews do daily. Sometimes they’re called for a second mission before they’ve finished a current mission. They often have to react to several different situations in a single day.

“Some days we can sit around all day and not get called,” Harris said. “Other days (improvised explosive devices) and (rocket-propelled grenades) could be going off all day long. Some days we’ll get three missions in a row and end up flying for three hours straight evacuating troops.”

Simons said that he’s been flying with a medevac crew for

**Sgt. Marcus Miller (far right), a flight medic with the 50th Medical Evacuation Company of the 101st Airborne Division, deployed from Fort Campbell, Ky., and medics from the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, drive a patient from the landing zone to the hospital entrance.**

only about a month and a half. During that time, he’s flown more than 50 hours evacuating casualties and patients.

Once the crew is on the ground, the medic’s sole concern are the patients. The crew chief’s responsibility is to make sure the medic can stay focused without worrying about incoming fire. The crew chief is the medic’s security effort. “He’s my bodyguard. He’s my eyes on the perimeter,” Harris said of his crew chief, Simons.

“The medic can’t worry

about things like security,” Simons said. “He has the health of the patient to worry about.”

After casualties are loaded onto the helicopter, the medic begins treating patients for secondary injuries, such as minor shrapnel or small-arms-fire wounds.

But sometimes the injuries are far too severe for the medic to treat in the air. Sometimes the casualties don’t make it at all, Harris said.

“Saving a life is the greatest feeling in the world,” Harris said. “But a lot of guys aren’t going

to make it. You have to be able to deal with that. I go home with a lot of bad memories of the faces of guys who died and didn’t make it.”

The pressures and stress of being on a medevac crew may be more than most people can handle. But the medics, crew chiefs and pilots of the 50th Medevac Company are well-trained, experienced and always

prepared to save the life of a fellow Soldier, Simons said.

“This job isn’t for everyone,” Harris said. “You’re dealing with casualties and blood. You’ve got to be able to work through that. If you let it get to you, you’re not going to be any good to yourself or the patient.”

*(Carden is assigned to Multinational Corps Iraq.)*



Photos by Sgt. Michael Carden



**Sgt. Marcus Miller (center), a flight medic with the 50th Medical Evacuation Company, and two medics stationed at Baghdad International Airport load a casualty onto a Black Hawk helicopter.**



# Spectrum



Sgt. Brian Koester, 35th Military Police Detachment dog handler, releases military working dog Rocko on an aggressor played by Sgt. Justin Taylor, also an MP dog handler, during working dog certification. Two Fort Gordon K-9s were tested for explosive detection and one for narcotic detection during the annual certification. Photos by Spc. Armando Monroig

**Spc. Armando Monroig**  
*Signal staff*

The 35th Military Police Detachment held MP dog handlers and working dogs certification training at various locations on post March 7 to 9.

Six teams, three from Fort Gordon and three from Fort Knox, Ky., participated in the annual mandatory certification.

Two Fort Gordon K-9s were tested for explosive detection and one for narcotic detection.

Training consisted of searching buildings for suspects, explosive or narcotics detection, patrols, and obedience or taking commands. Dogs were run through an obstacle course at the kennel where they had to maneuver through tunnels, windows, hurdles and stairs.

Sgt. 1st Class Tyshawn Anthony, kennel master for the K-9 section on

post assigned to the 35th MP Detachment, is the person responsible for the training and use of nine military working dogs on post.

According to Anthony these dogs are used for deployments and U.S. secret service missions, to name a few.

He said the training was an annual certification used to verify that dog handlers and dogs know what they are doing before being assigned to a particular mission.

Anthony said that as of March 10 Fort Gordon has 100 percent certification of their military working dog teams, and that is quite an accomplishment.

"Our dogs are trained to assist us in apprehension and detection," said Anthony.

Military working dogs undergo initial training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, said Anthony. Once they pass

that training they are matched up with a handler and then must get certified as a team, he said.

Anthony said Fort Gordon currently has six explosive and three narcotic detection drug teams.

He added that their explosives dog team is trained on nine different types of explosive odors and narcotics drug team is trained on six different types of narcotics.

Sgt. Justin Taylor, 35th MP Det., was one of the MP dog handlers who participated in the certification.

"It's been fun. I learned a lot of new things," said Taylor. "Along with getting certified the certification authorities taught us new things."

Taylor said he will be working law and order with his dog here at Fort Gordon but if deployed he and his K-9 counterpart will be looking for explosives.



Military working dog Sammy runs through an obstacle course.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Sytsma

(Left) Koester conducts a search on 'aggressor' Taylor as Rocko stands guard. (Above) Sgt. Valerie Mancuso, 34th MP Det., Fort Knox, Ky., and her military working dog Bart conduct an explosives patrol at the Fort Gordon RV storage lot.